



III MEF Support Battalion Commanding Officer's Policy Statement on *Safety*



The Marine Corps is facing one of the most challenging periods in our illustrious history. Factors outside the control of this battalion may combine in a manner that will increase our risk, but we will rise to the tasking and safely accomplish the mission. Safety begins and ends with **operational excellence**, engaged **leadership** and the consummate **professional**. These are the essential elements inherent in a successful organization.

I expect visible leadership at every level to provide the energy, focus and dedicated purpose necessary to elevate and maintain these essential elements for our success. A battalion that performs professionally and seeks improvement will perform safely. Knowledgeable and caring professionals will extend that professionalism to their off duty activities. Our ability to act and perform as consummate professionals will always be the foundation and measure of a sound safety environment. My challenge to each of you is to strive for and meet that professional standard.

There is no task in this battalion so important that it must be executed at the expense of safe and sound operating procedures. Whether on or off duty, at home or on liberty, our professionalism and pursuit of operational excellence demands that safe and sound practices are followed. In our business, even the slightest misstep in professional behavior can have disastrous affects. Put simply, **bad policy, poor focus, or improper execution means people die**. My responsibility is to ensure mission success while serving as a good steward of all of the people and equipment entrusted to me. I cannot do that alone. I can provide an environment that fosters a professional attitude, but it requires each and every Marine in this battalion to ensure we act professionally and preserve our greatest assets to be ready to meet the missions that are assigned to us.

My safety policy is built on four pillars and must be applied to your daily activities on and off duty:

- **Professionalism** — Display a professional attitude and demeanor; seek a solid foundation of professional behavior on and off duty. A professional approach to everything we do is a prerequisite to sound and safe practices.
- **Education** — Know and abide by established rules and procedures. The unknowing can never be expected to function in a safe and professional environment. The responsibility of teaching and training begins with the commander and extends to every NCO in this battalion.
- **Involvement** — All hands must recognize that they have a vested interest in this program, understand their individual role, and conduct themselves professionally. Know and respect your limitations. This requires the participation of all members in the battalion without prejudice towards rank, position, experience, or seniority.
- **Empowerment and Enforcement** — Everyone must be allowed and is expected to oversee a safe and professional environment. Aggressively participate in efforts to identify and eliminate hazards; correct problems on the spot regardless of rank or experience. Each of you carries my authority to correct unprofessional practices. We all must be extremely vigilant in ensuring that we do not over look that which could damage or destroy.

Our success as a battalion depends on the capable and competent actions of aggressive individuals working together as a team to accomplish the mission. The resultant effect of our efforts will ensure that the dynamic environment in which we operate is inherently safe. A professional environment does not grow over night and certainly does not establish itself. It is tough, and it takes work. All hands must assume their share of responsibility, and when the time comes to correct a problem, each of us should be racing to fix it. Any questions regarding the battalion safety program can be addressed by the Safety Officer at DSN 623-7731

Semper Fidelis,

Douglas J Cobb Jr
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
III MEF Support Battalion